

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. John Hall (NY-19) voted in favor of a bill today that would block the annual cost-of-living adjustment for salaries of Member of Congress in 2011 – but he said the legislation doesn't go far enough.

The vote was 402 to 15 to deny an automatic \$1,600 pay raise, continuing the current pay freeze already in place for 2010. Last week the Senate also voted to reject a pay raise.

Rep. Hall said he was pleased by today's vote, but would like to take the pay freeze a step further. "In these times, with so many families struggling to make ends meet, it's certainly appropriate for Congress to deny itself a pay raise," Hall said. "But what we really ought to do is give ourselves a pay cut," he added.

Hall is a co-sponsor of a bill that would do just that. The Taking Responsibility for Congressional Pay Act would reduce the salaries of House and Senate members by 5 percent.

"With millions of Americans are looking for a job, it's appropriate that we who are privileged to represent these people in Congress show solidarity with them now by voting to cut our pay," Hall said.

Rep. Hall has opposed pay raises before. In 2007, six months after he took office, Hall voted against a \$4,400 pay raise, and when Congress voted to pass it, he donated his raise to charity.